

# THE TYPES OF DERMAPTERA DESCRIBED BY FABRICIUS

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The London types of Dermaptera described by Fabricius, which are in the British Museum (NH) were listed in Brindle (1970), together with the holotypes of the only two species described by Linnaeus, which are held by the Linnaean Society. The remaining Fabrician types are now in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen University, and the identity of some of these has not been previously clarified. I am indebted to Dr. Henrik Enghoff for the recent loan of these types, and a summary of all Fabrician types is given in the present paper together with their present status.

Two types are still unidentifiable: that of *Forficula flexuosa*, which is lost, and that of *Forficula pygmaea*, which is in two parts which do not appear to be conspecific. Only one nomenclatorial change is necessary from the present study, which involves the species named as *Forficula annulata*. This species was listed as *Labia annulata* in Burr (1911) and this placing has been followed in recent papers, but the type is clearly identical to the species known as *Euborellia stali* (Dohrn 1864). This species thus becomes *Euborellia annulata* (Fabricius 1793).

The following summary follows the list of Fabrician types given in Zimsen 1964, numbers 84-100, pp. 613-614), and the types examined are indicated by an asterisk. Most types were correctly placed in Burr (1911) but any names which have been subsequently placed in other genera, or where the names were incorrectly used, are noted.

Summary of the Fabrician types of Dermaptera.

1. *Forficula flexuosa* 1775, *Syst. Ent.* 269 (Cayenne = French Guiana). Lost. The original description does not clearly indicate any one known species. Burr (1911) lists this as "species incerta sedis".
- \* 2. *F. dentata* 1775, *Syst. Ent.* 270 (Madeira). British Museum (NH) Holotype ♂ = *Forficula auricularia* L. ♂.
- \* 3. *F. parallela* 1775, *Syst. Ent.* 270 (Madeira). British Museum (NH), 2 ♀ syntypes; Copenhagen Museum, 2 ♀ syntypes = *Forficula auricularia* L. ♀.
- \* 4. *F. morio* 1775, *Syst. Ent.* 270 (Tahiti). British Museum (NH), 1 ♂, 1 ♀, syntypes; Copenhagen Museum, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ syntypes = *Chelisoches morio* (F.) ♂, ♀.
- \* 5. *F. pallipes* 1775, *Syst. Ent.* 270 (locality uncertain). British Museum (NH), 1 ♂, 1 ♀, syntypes = *Chelisoches morio* (F.). See Brindle (1970) for comments on these types. Given as synonym of *Labidura riparia* (Pallas) in Burr (1911).
6. *F. bipunctata* 1781, *Spec. Ins.* 340 (Italy). Copenhagen Museum, 2 ♀ syntypes = *Anechura bipunctata* (F.) ♀.

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7. *F. gigantea* 1787, *Mant. Ins.* I : 224 (Europe). Copenhagen Museum, 3 syntypes = *Labidura riparia* (Pallas).
- \* 8. *F. albipes* 1787, *Mant. Ins.* I : 224 (West Indies). Copenhagen Museum, holotype ♀ = *Doru albipes* (F.) ♀. Type has head missing, and has a small written label "albipes". Listed as *Phaulex albipes* in Burr (1911).
9. *F. biguttata* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 2 (Hungary). Lost. Original description is good = *Anechura bipunctata* (F.) ♂.
- \*10. *F. flavipes* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 2 (Guinea). Copenhagen Museum, holotype ♀ = *Labidura riparia* (Pallas) ♀.
- \*11. *F. pygmaea* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 3 (Guinea). Copenhagen Museum, holotype. This is two pieces, the head, pronotum, and an abdomen attached to a small card on a second pin. This last is darker than the other and has a spine on the pygidium suggesting it is an abdomen from a male *Doru*. The head, pronotum, and elytra suggest a Labiid but it is impossible to identify it satisfactorily. It is not *Labia curvicauda* (Motschulsky) as suggested in Burr (1911).
- \*12. *F. annulata* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 4 (West Indies). Copenhagen Museum, ♂ type = *Euborellia stali* (Dohrn) ♂. Zimsen (1964) records three specimens but that seen has a small written label "annulata" and may be the only remaining specimen. Listed as *Labia annulata* in Burr (1911) and in recent papers, but there is no doubt of the identity of the type, and this has the annulate antennae, with some distal segments white, which explains the specific name. *Euborellia stali* (Dohrn) thus becomes *Euborellia annulata* (Fabricius).
- \*13. *F. erythrocephala* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 4 (West Indies). Copenhagen Museum, ♀ type = *Labidura riparia* (Pallas) ♀. Zimsen (1964) records three specimens.
- \*14. *F. elongata* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 4 (West Indies). Copenhagen Museum, 2 ♂ syntypes = *Forficula auricularia* L. ♂. These have rather long forceps, and a lectotype has been chosen as the smaller specimen, body length 10 mm., forceps 7 mm. The second specimen, body length 10.5 mm., forceps 6.5 mm., has been labelled as a paralectotype. This species is listed as uncertain in Burr (1911).
15. *F. flavipennis* 1793, *Ent. Syst.* II : 5 (Senegal). Lost. Original description leaves no doubt about its identity = *Chelisoches flavipennis* (F.). Listed as *Enkrates flavipennis* in Burr (1911).
16. *F. herculeana* 1793, *Ent. Syst. Suppl.* : 185 (St. Helena). Copenhagen Museum, holotype = *Labidura herculeana* (F.). The type has been compared to specimens in the British Museum (NH) and elsewhere. Listed as synonym of *Labidura riparia* (Pallas) in Burr (1911).
17. *F. ruficollis* 1793, *Ent. Syst. Suppl.* : 185 (Tangier). Copenhagen Museum, holotype = *Forficula ruficollis* (F.).

## References

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## Current Literature

**Liste systématique et synonymique des Lépidoptères de France, Belgique et Corse** by Patrice Leraut. 334 pp. Supplement to *Alexanor* and the *Bulletin de la Société entomologique de France*, Paris, 1980. Price not stated.

*A check list of British insects (Part 2), Lepidoptera* by Kloet & Hincks (1972) led to the virtual standardisation of nomenclature and taxonomy in this country. No comparable work was available in France and as a result for "several decades the most complete anarchy has reigned in France in the lepidopteran nomenclature" (p. 15). To remedy this, Patrice Leraut, an amateur entomologist, undertook in 1974 the arduous task of compiling a comprehensive check list, with synonyms, of the French Lepidoptera. This work has ensued after over five years of research.

Taxonomy is not an exact science. Biologists are not agreed even over the definition of a species, and genera, subfamilies, families and superfamilies are groupings of convenience, liable to modification in the hands of successive researchers. Systematic arrangement has to be linear and the taxonomist would like it to resemble a ladder leading up from the most primitive to the most advanced, with the genera as its successive rungs. Instead he is faced by a tree with series of more or less parallel branches, and a problem of priorities. Leraut has sought the advice of leading authorities but it is aware that whatever choices he makes will displease one section of his readers. He modestly writes, "There is no doubt that after its publication this list will soon be out of date. It would be an illusion to think one can permanently establish the nomenclature. If nevertheless this work stimulates a little criticism, bringing about revision of the groups, I will be thoroughly convinced of its usefulness" (p. 35).

A full comparison of his taxonomic arrangement with that of Kloet & Hincks is impossible within the compass of a review, nor is it easy to predict his influence on British thinking. But since his work is bound to have an impact. I shall draw attention to some of the main discrepancies. These are to be found chiefly in the Microlepidoptera.